

upon us Fouche was indeed an acceptable present to France and to the King!¹

I was not ignorant of the Duke of Wellington's influence upon the affairs of the second Restoration, but for a long time I refused to believe that his influence should have outweighed all the serious considerations opposed to such a perfect anomaly as appointing Pouclu* the Minister of a Bourbon. But I was deceived. France and the King owed to him Fouche's introduction into the Council, and I had to thank him for the impossibility of resuming a situation which I had relinquished for the purpose of following the King into Belgium. Could I be Prefect of Police, under a Minister whom a short time before I had received orders to arrest, but who eluded my agents? That was impossible. The King could not offer me the place, of Prefect under Fouche, and if he had I could not have accepted it. I was therefore right in not relying on the assurances which had been given me; but I confess that if I had been told to guess the cause why they could not be, realized I never should have thought that cause would have been the appointment of Foucho as a Minister of the* King of France. At first, therefore, I was of

¹ Itougnot < vol. ii, p. 274) HIIH that while the King was at St. Denis, before entering Paris, Talleyrand, the Duke of Wellington, and Fouche met at Paris. "I never knew why the Duke of Wellington was so zealous in his support of the Duke of Otranto. It is true, that he was remarkably distrustful of the feelings of France, and perhaps he had allowed himself to be persuaded that Fouche alone was master of the situation." In March, 1814, either Metternich, or some of the Ministers of the Allies in his presence, had asked him to say "Could your Prince (Comte d'Artois) attach himself to Fouche?" — "I answered I (Vittrolle) in a murmur; that he was rather strong, but that, if he were shown that the King did not look on Fouche as an impossible choice (Vittrolle, tome i. p. 148), Louis XVIII. seemed to have really felt deeply having to appoint Fouche?" a) J. J. Itougnot (vol. ii. p. 278) says he "permitted the omission for the appointment of the Duke of Otranto (Fouche). The King's Khut" < d at the paper and let it fall on the desk; then, having stepped from his hand, the blood flowed into his face, his eyes became hollow, and he fell back on his back by a fatal tilt. A sorrowful Hilone* had suddenly interrupted a turn of conversation that was quite easy and pleasant. The Hilone* said "Homo miiutche" after which the King said, with a deep sigh, "I am, it is not to be done." He picked up his pen, stopped again, b) for writing the letters, and uttered these words, "Oh, my unhappy brother! If you had me you would have forgiven me." He said at last, but in a painful and agitated manner, great tears flowing from his eyes and moistening the paper. "This feeling could hardly have been feigned, though it has been believed by some that Louis XVIII. had greater wrongs to his brother to complain of than the appointment of one of the regicides as a Minister.